# The Month In Review

December 2018

National Weather Service Pendleton, Oregon

# December, 2018 Climate Summary

The month of December, 2018 can be summarized as warmer and drier than normal. Most locations had above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation (both rain and snow). There were some short periods of fog and/or low clouds, but there were also days or periods of a week or more with frequent weather systems. Probably the most significant weather during December, 2018 were wind events, which were several. Often, a tight pressure gradient had been set up over the Grande Ronde Valley and along the Blue Mountain Foothills due to a thermal gradient between the colder air east and south of the Blue Mountains and warmer air northwest of the Blue Mountains. In particular, the Grande Ronde Valley had several wind events as well as the Blue Mountain Foothills at the base of the Blue Mountains.



Whitening of trees at the National Weather Service office due to light snow on Christmas morning.

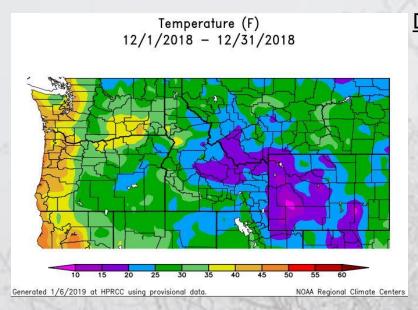


On Christmas morning, there was 0.7 inches of snow at the National Weather Service, Pendleton.

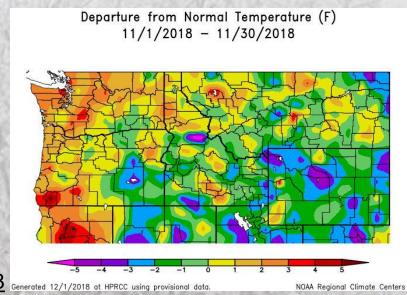


There were several wind events during the month of December.

#### **December, 2018 Departure from Normal Temperatures**



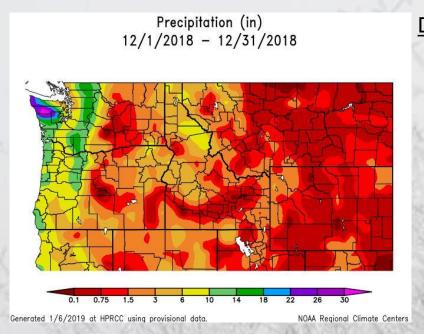
Departure from normal for December, 2018



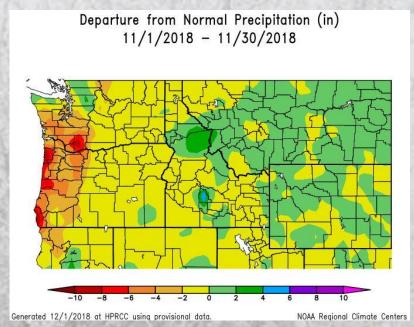
Departure from normal for November, 2018 Generated 12/1/2018 at HPRCC using provisional data.

The images above show a comparison of the departure from normal of the average temperature for December vs. November, 2018. These images show that the Lower Columbia Basin had warmer than normal temperatures, but the higher terrain surrounding the Basin had near to a little below normal AVERAGE temperatures. It should be noted that individual stations were mostly warmer than normal in the table two slides below, but overall much of the forecast area was cooler than normal.

### November, 2018 Departure from Normal Precipitation



Departure from normal precipitation for December



Departure from normal precipitation for November

The above images show that for the month of December, 2018, the precipitation was well below normal for the entire forecast area (central / northeast Oregon and southeast / south central Washington). There was a much greater departure from normal for December than for November. Most of the precipitation fell over the Northern Blue Mountains (northeast Umatilla and northern Union Counties).

#### December, 2018 departures from normal for select cites

	Max T	Max T D	Min T	Min T D	Ave T	Ave T D	PCPN	PCPN D	Snow	Snow D
Yakima	41.7	5.9	27.4	6.1	34.5	6.0	0.68	-0.85	0.3	-9.4
Kennewick	44.9	5.0	33.2	4.4	39.0	4.7	1.04	-0.09	Т	-2.2
Walla Walla	45.5	7.0	33.8	5.4	39.7	6.3	1.98	-0.49	Т	-4.4
The Dalles	44.5	4.2	32.9	2.7	38.7	3.5	2.57	-0.16	M	М
Redmond	44.3	3.8	25.3	4.6	34.8	4.2	0.65	-0.51	Т	-5.1
Pendleton Airport	43.7	4.2	31.1	4.1	37.4	4.2	1.66	0.19	0.7	-5.3
La Grande	37.9	0.3	23.7	0.0	30.8	0.1	0.55	-1.11	0.6	-2.8

The data above shows that all stations had above normal temperatures and below normal precipitation (except for Pendleton, which had slightly above normal precipitation). All stations also had below normal snowfall for December. These data are likely a result of a developing El Nino in combination with a persistent trough in the east and southeast USA and an upper ridge over the western USA. Some years the forecast area will be much colder in December, than December 2018, with much more snowfall than was in December, 2018.

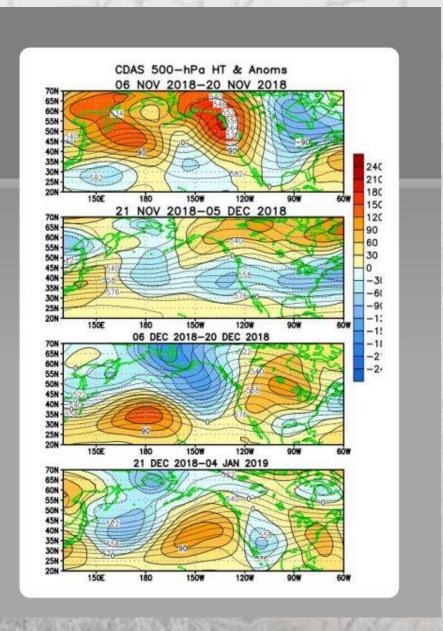
#### 500 MB Plots – 6th November, 2018 through 4th January, 2019

# Atmospheric anomalies over the North Pacific and North America During the Last 60 Days

From early to mid November, the pattern was mostly characterized by anomalous ridging (and above-average temperatures) over the western U.S. and anomalous troughing (and belowaverage temperatures) over the central and/or eastern U.S.

During late November to early December, belowaverage heights (and temperatures) were present across most of the contiguous U.S.

Since late December, anomalous ridging (and above-average temperatures) were evident over the eastern U.S., along with anomalous troughing (and below-average temperatures) over the western U.S.



1 of 3

#### Significant Weather Events for the month of December, 2018

The next several slides show Local Storm Reports (LSR's) for significant weather events which occurred in the forecast area during December. Most significant weather events were either strong wind or heavy mountain snow events.

PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR

144 PM PST SUN DEC 9 2018

..TIME... ..EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON...
..DATE... ...MAG... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST....SOURCE....
..REMARKS..

1224 PM NON-TSTM WND GST 5 SE LA GRANDE 45.27N 118.01W

12/09/2018 M67 MPH UNION OR AWOS

LA GRANDE AIRPORT LGD REPORTED PEAK WIND GUST TO 58 KTS
OR 67 MPH FROM SOUTHEAST.

A significant wind event on December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018 in the Grande Ronde Valley.

These data show a significant high wind event which resulted in multiple wind advisories for December 9<sup>th</sup>, 2018.



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR
1000 AM PST WED DEC 12 2018

..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON...
..DATE... ...MAG... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST....SOURCE....
..REMARKS..

0958 AM HEAVY SNOW 1 WSW SKI BLUEWOOD 46.08N 117.85W 12/12/2018 M13.0 INCH COLUMBIA WA TRAINED SPOTTER

13 INCHES OF NEW SNOW IN 24 HOURS. ELEVATION 4500 FEET.

1006 AM PST WED DEC 12 2018

0930 AM HEAVY SNOW 1 SE FLORA 45.89N 117.29W 12/12/2018 M8.0 INCH WALLOWA OR COCORAHS

8 INCHES OF NEW SNOW DURING PAST 24HRS. ELEVATION 4408 FEET.

0415 PM NON-TSTM WND GST 7 SSE LA GRANDE 45.23N 118.01W 12/11/2018 M60 MPH UNION OR MESONET

MESONET STATION ODT18, 7 SE LA GRANDE.

These data shows LSR's for a strong wind and heavy snow event on December 12<sup>th</sup>.





PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR

1000 AM PST WED DEC 12 2018

..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION...

...LAT.LON...

..DATE... ...MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.. ...SOURCE....

..REMARKS..

0115 PM NON-TSTM WND GST 10 NNW BENTON CITY 46.39N 119.59W 12/11/2018 M61 MPH BENTON WA MESONET

MESONET STATION HRMTN, 10 NW BENTON CITY.

1029 AM PST WED DEC 12 2018

0828 PM NON-TSTM WND GST 15 ESE MORO 45.38N 120.46W

12/11/2018 M69 MPH GILLIAM OR MESONET

MESONET STATION D1028, 14 ESE MORO.

These data shows LSR's for a strong wind and heavy snow event on December 12<sup>th</sup> (cont).





PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT

NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR

901 AM PST FRI DEC 14 2018

..TIME... ..EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ..LAT.LON...

..DATE... ..MAG... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST....SOURCE....

..REMARKS..

0815 AM NON-TSTM WND GST 2 E MITCHELL 44.57N 120.11W 12/14/2018 E60.00 MPH WHEELER OR CO-OP OBSERVER

0835 AM NON-TSTM WND GST 5 S MISSION 45.59N 118.67W 12/14/2018 M63.00 MPH UMATILLA OR PUBLIC

WIND CAUSING BROKEN BRANCHES, WOOD PILE BLOWN OVER, ROOF SHINGLES BLOWN OFF, GARBAGE CAN FILLED WITH BRICKS APPROXIMATELY 250 LBS BLEW OVER.

1119 AM NON-TSTM WND GST 6 SSE PENDLETON 45.59N 118.77W 12/14/2018 M67 MPH UMATILLA OR NWS EMPLOYEE

OFF DUTY NWS EMPLOYEE.

These data shows LSR's for a strong wind event on December 14<sup>th</sup>.



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR 901 AM PST FRI DEC 14 2018 ..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON... ..DATE... ...MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.. ...SOURCE.... ..REMARKS... 0946 AM NON-TSTM WND GST 1 NW HEPPNER 45.36N 119.56W 12/14/2018 M58 MPH MORROW OR MESONET MESONET STATION C5615, HEPPNER. NON-TSTM WND GST 4 SSE ISLAND CITY 0629 AM 45.29N 118.00W 12/14/2018 M67 MPH UNION OR AWOS AWOS STATION LGD, LA GRANDE/UNION COUNTY AIRPORT. NON-TSTM WND GST 5 SSW MISSION 1215 PM 45,60N 118,70W 12/14/2018 M72 MPH UMATILLA OR MESONET MESONET STATION E8735, 4 SSW MISSION. 1213 PM NON-TSTM WND GST 12 SSE WAITSBURG 46.11N 118.07W 12/14/2018 M63 MPH WALLA WALLA WA MESONET MESONET STATION E6137, 11 SSE WAITSBURG.

These data shows LSR's for a strong wind event on December 14<sup>th</sup> (cont).



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR 901 AM PST FRI DEC 14 2018 ..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON... ..DATE... ...MAG... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.. ...SOURCE.... ..REMARKS... 12/14/2018 M72 MPH UMATILLA OR MESONET MESONET STATION E7176, 4 W ADAMS. 1239 PM NON-TSTM WND GST 10 ESE MISSION 45,60N 118,49W UMATILLA OR DEPT OF HIGHWAYS 12/14/2018 UNKNOWN MPH INTERSTATE 84 CLOSED DUE HIGH WINDS FROM 7 MILES EAST OF PENDLETON TO 4 MILES OF LA GRANDE. SEMI BLOWN OVER 14 MILES EAST OF PENDLETON LIKELY DUE TO THE STRONG WINDS. 1233 PM NON-TSTM WND GST WESTON 45.81N 118.42W 12/14/2018 UNKNOWN MPH UMATILLA OR PUBLIC PRINCIPAL AT WESTON MIDDLE SCHOOL REPORTS EXTERIOR PANE OF EAST FACING WINDOW BLOWN OUT FROM WIND GUSTS.

These data shows LSR's for a strong wind event on December 14<sup>th</sup> (cont).



0230 PM	NON-TST	M WND GS	T 2 SW UNI	ION		45.19N 1	17.90W	
12/14/20	18 M59 MP	H UI	NION	OR	ME	SONET		
1216 PM	NON-TST	M WND GS	T 1 WNW C	AYUSE		45.68N	I 118.58W	
12/14/20	18 M90.00	MPH (	JMATILLA	0	R	MESONET		
1235 PM	HIGH SUS	ST WINDS	CAYUSE		4	5.68N 118.	56W	
12/14/20 <sup>-</sup>	18 M60.00	MPH (	JMATILLA	0	R	NWS EMPLO	OYEE	
M	EASURED W	/ITH HAND	HELD ANE	MOMETI	ER			
1231 PM	NON-TST	M WND GS	T 4 W ADA	MS		45.76N 1	18.65W	
12/14/20	18 M75 MP	H U	MATILLA	OR	۱ ۸	MESONET		
1235 PM	HIGH SUS	ST WINDS	CAYUSE		4	5.68N 118.	56W	
12/14/20	18 M60.00	MPH (	JMATILLA	0	R	NWS EMPLO	OYEE	
M	EASURED W	/ITH HAND	HELD ANE	MOMETI	ER			
0640 PM	NON-TST	M WND GS	T 3 N JOSE	PH		45.39N 1	17.23W	
12/14/20	18 M66 MP	H W	ALLOWA	0	R	MESONET		

These data shows LSR's for a strong wind event on December 14<sup>th</sup> (cont).



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT
NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR
844 AM PST TUE DEC 18 2018

..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION...

...LAT.LON...

..DATE... ....MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.. ...SOURCE....

..REMARKS..

0647 AM HEAVY SNOW 2 SSE SNOQUALMIE PASS 47.39N 121.39W 12/18/2018 M8.0 INCH KITTITAS WA COCORAHS

RECEIVED 8.0 INCHES SNOW OVERNIGHT. CURRENTLY 32 DEG AND SNOWING.

0715 AM HEAVY SNOW SNOQUALMIE PASS 47.42N 121.41W 12/18/2018 U0.0 INCH KITTITAS WA DEPT OF HIGHWAYS

WSDOT REPORTED VIA THEIR WEBSITE AND SOCIAL THAT I-90
BOTH DIRECTIONS BETWEEN NORTH BEND AND ELLENSBURG WAS
CLOSED DUE TO MULTIPLE VEHICLE SPINOUTS, FROM HEAVY SNOW
AND POOR VISIBILITY.

These data shows LSR's for a heavy snow event on December 18<sup>th</sup> over the WA Cascades.



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR 601 AM PST SUN DEC 23 2018 ..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON... ..DATE... ....MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.....SOURCE.... ..REMARKS... 0600 AM SNOW 1 N TROUT LAKE 46.01N 121.53W 12/23/2018 M5.0 INCH KLICKITAT WA TRAINED SPOTTER 0700 AM HEAVY SNOW 2 SSE SNOOUALMIE PASS 47.39N 121.39W 12/23/2018 M7.5 INCH **KITTITAS** WA COCORAHS ACCUMULATION THROUGH 7 AM. SNOW BEGAN AROUND 6 PM. 0800 AM HEAVY SNOW **8 SSW TROUT LAKE** 45.89N 121.59W 12/23/2018 M7.8 INCH KLICKITAT WA COCORAHS SNOW BEGAN AROUND 8 PM. ELEVATION 1952 FT. 0415 PM SNOW 4 WSW ELGIN 45.53N 117.99W 12/23/2018 M3.0 INCH UNION OR TRAINED SPOTTER 3 INCHES OF NEW SNOW SINCE 8AM. ELEVATION 3145 FEET.

These data shows LSR's for a heavy snow event on December 23<sup>rd</sup> over the WA Cascades.



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR 1149 AM PST MON DEC 24 2018 ..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON... ..DATE... ....MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST... ...SOURCE.... ..REMARKS... 0700 AM HEAVY SNOW 2 SW WALLOWA 45.55N 117.56W 12/24/2018 M6.0 INCH WALLOWA OR COCORAHS COCORAHS OBSERVER RECORDED 6 INCHES OF SNOW ACCUMULATION. 0830 AM SNOW **5 NNE LA GRANDE** 45.39N 118.07W 12/24/2018 M4.0 INCH UNION OR TRAINED SPOTTER SPOTTER MEASURED 4 INCHES OF SNOW ACCUMULATION OVERNIGHT. 0930 AM **HEAVY SNOW** 9 N ELGIN 45.69N 117.92W 12/24/2018 M7.2 INCH UNION OR COCORAHS COCORAHS OBSERVER RECORDED A 24 HOUR ACCUMULATION OF 7.2 INCHES OF SNOW, ELEVATION 2873 FEET. 0930 AM SNOW 4 NW MEACHAM 45.55N 118,48W 12/24/2018 M6.5 INCH UMATILLA OR COCORAHS COCORAHS OBSERVER MEASURED 6.5 INCHES OF SNOW ACCUMULATION.

These data shows LSR's for a heavy snow event on December 24<sup>th</sup> over the Northeast mountains of Oregon.



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR 823 AM PST THU DEC 27 2018 ..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON... ..DATE... ...MAG.... ..COUNTY LOCATION..ST.. ...SOURCE.... ..REMARKS... 0800 AM SNOW 5 NNE LA GRANDE 45.39N 118.07W 12/27/2018 M4.5 INCH UNION OR TRAINED SPOTTER CURRENTLY CLOUDY WITH CALM WINDS AND 24 DEGREES. 0100 PM HEAVY SNOW 9 N UKIAH 45.26N 118.93W OR PUBLIC 12/27/2018 U7.5 INCH UMATILLA FROM SOCIAL MEDIA POST.

These data shows LSR's for a heavy snow event on December 27<sup>th</sup> over the Northeast mountains of Oregon.



PRELIMINARY LOCAL STORM REPORT NATIONAL WEATHER SERVICE PENDLETON OR 756 AM PST SAT DEC 29 2018 ..TIME... ...EVENT... ...CITY LOCATION... ...LAT.LON... ..DATE... ....MAG.... ...COUNTY LOCATION..ST.....SOURCE.... ..REMARKS... 0753 AM SLEET **5 NNE LA GRANDE** 45.39N 118.07W 12/29/2018 M4.00 INCH UNION OR TRAINED SPOTTER SPOTTER MEASURED 4 INCHES OF SNOW ACCUMULATION IN 12 HOURS. NON-TSTM WND GST 13 WNW BICKLETON 46.08N 120.54W 0956 AM 12/29/2018 M58 MPH YAKIMA WA MESONET THE HIGH RIDGE RAWS MESURED A WIND GUST OF 58 MPH. **ELEVATION 2106 FEET.** 0146 PM NON-TSTM WND GST BENTON CITY 46.27N 119.49W 12/29/2018 M58 MPH BENTON WA MESONET CWOP STATION IN BENTON CITY RECORDED WINDS GUSTING TO 58 MPH.

These data shows LSR's for a winter weather and strong wind event on December 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> over the Northeast Oregon mountains, north central Oregon, south central Washington, and the valleys east of the Cascades of Oregon and Washington.



0231 PM NON-TSTM WND GST 4 NW WEST RICHLAND 46.36N 119.46W 12/29/2018 M64 MPH BENTON WA MESONET 11 INCHES OF NEW SNOW IN 24 HOURS. ELEVATION 2873 FEET. 0930 AM SNOW 8 ESE SPOUT SPRINGS 45.70N 117.91W 12/29/2018 M3.6 INCH UNION OR COCORAHS CORRECTION TO PREVIOUS REPORT. 3.6 INCHES OF NEW SNOW IN 24 HOURS. ELEVATION 2873 FEET. 46.64N 118.55W 0230 PM NON-TSTM WND GST KAHLOTUS 12/29/2018 M61.00 MPH FRANKLIN WA MESONET **CWOP STATION E5837** NON-TSTM WND GST 17 NW GOLDENDALE 46,00N 121,07W 0109 AM 12/30/2018 M65.00 MPH KLICKITAT WA MESONET RAWS GRAYBACK NON-TSTM WND GST 16 WNW WHITE SWAN 46.48N 121.03W 0109 AM 12/30/2018 M73.00 MPH YAKIMA WA MESONET RAWS SEDGE RIDGE

These data shows LSR's for a winter weather and strong wind event on December 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> over the Northeast Oregon mountains, north central Oregon, south central Washington, and the valleys east of the Cascades of Oregon and Washington (cont).



0215 AM	NON-TST	TM WND GS	T 1 NE SIST	TERS	44.30N 1	21.53W	
12/30/201	18 M61.00	MPH [	DESCHUTES	OR	AWOS		
SI	STERS AIR	PORT K6K5					
0245 AM	NON-TST	TM WND GS	T 5 WSW R	RUFUS	45.67N	120.84W	
12/30/201	18 M58.00	MPH S	HERMAN	OR	MESONET		
М	ESONET ST	TATION XMI	RY				
0248 AM	NON-TST	TM WND GS	T 11 E SHA	NIKO	45.00N	120.53W	
12/30/201	18 M67.00	MPH \	WASCO	OR /	MESONET		
R	AWS NORT	H POLE RIE	OGE				
0845 PM	NON-TST	M WND DM	NG 2 SE KEN	NEWICK	46.18	N 119.13W	
12/29/201	18	BENTO	N	WA TRAII	NED SPOTT	ER	
ESTIMATED GUSTS TO 50 MPH. WINDS BLEW A 10-FOOT PIECE OF							
А	SECURED I	METAL ROC	OF OFF OF	A CHICKEN	COOP INT	O A	
N	EIGHBORS	YARD.					

These data shows LSR's for a winter weather and strong wind event on December 29<sup>th</sup> – 30<sup>th</sup> over the Northeast Oregon mountains, north central Oregon, south central Washington, and the valleys east of the Cascades of Oregon and Washington (cont).



## December, 2018 Observed Monthly Max & Min Temperatures

Location	Highest Maximum Temperature	Lowest Minimum Temperature
Pendleton, OR	61	20
Redmond, OR	60	6
Pasco, WA	57	21
Yakima, WA	58	20
Walla Walla, WA	63	21
Bend, OR	54	7
Ellensburg, WA	52	19
Hermiston, OR	59	18
John Day, OR	54	1
La Grande, OR	47	9
The Dalles, OR	57	26
MT Adams RS, WA*	45	16
* Incomplete data		

These data show that every station, except for Pendleton and Redmond, never got above 59 degrees for a high temperature during the month. The lowest was 6 degrees at Redmond, which is also one of the stations that DID get above 59 degrees.

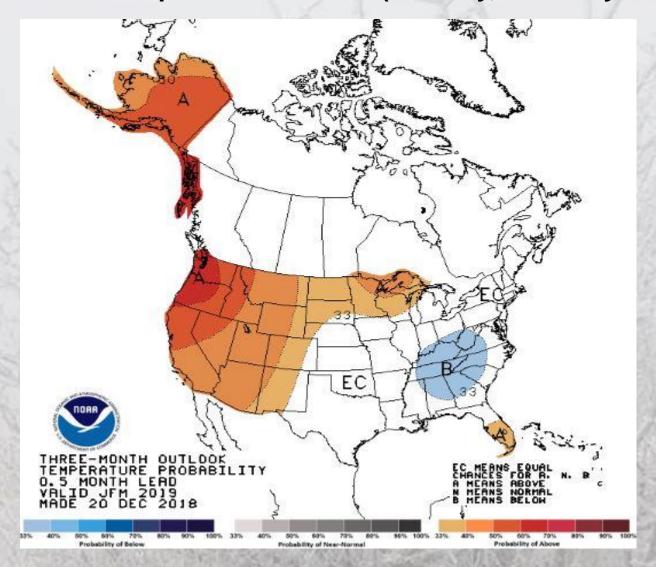
# December, 2018, Monthly Total Precipitation Totals

Location	Total Monthly Precip	Total Snowfall or Hail
Pendleton. OR	1.66	0.7
Redmond, OR	0.65	Т
Pasco, WA	0.88	Т
Yakima, WA	0.68	0.3
Walla Walla, WA	1.98	Т
Bend, OR	1.85	0
Ellensburg, WA	1.13	M
Hermiston, OR	0.91	Т
John Day, OR	0.94	11.5
La Grande, OR	1.34	4.6
The Dalles, OR	2.57	M
Mt Adams RS, WA*	6.65	5.0

<sup>\*</sup>Incomplete data

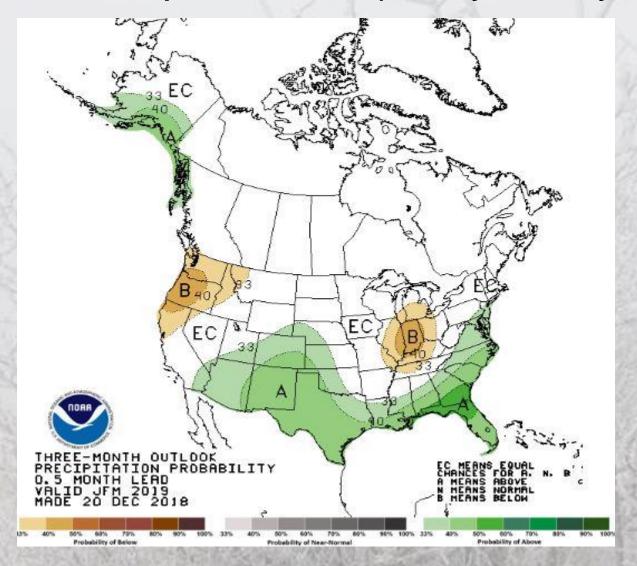
All stations had at least a half inch or more of liquid equivalent precipitation. Snowfall Amounts were on the low side with the greatest being John Day, OR with 11.5 inches.

#### **Three Month Temperature Outlook (January, February & March)**



The temperature outlook for the next three months shows about a 50 - 70% chance of being above normal for all of the Pacific Northwest and the forecast area.

#### Three Month Precipitation Outlook (January, February & March)

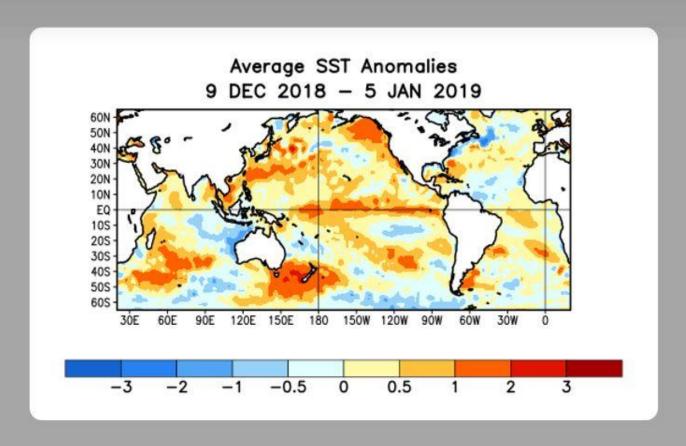


The precipitation outlook for the next three months shows that the Pacific Northwest will have below normal precipitation throughout all of the Pacific Northwest and forecast area.

#### El Nino/La Nina Index for 9th December, 2018 – 5th January, 2019

# Global SST Departures (°C) During the Last Four Weeks

During the last four weeks, equatorial SSTs were above average across the Pacific and central Atlantic Oceans.



Note that the SST's were above average for most of the tropical western and eastern Pacific. This is indicative that an El Nino is still evolving. The weather patterns during the last month are typical of an El Nino.



Thank You!